TRENDS

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3/23/89

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 23, 1989 -- Carloadings* originated on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 18 totaled 344,005, up 2.0 percent from the comparable week of 1988 and 5.8 percent above the preceding week of 1989, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today. The railroads reporting account for approximately 94 percent of all rail carloads.

Carloadings originated were up 3.9 percent in the East but down 0.2 percent in the West, compared with a year ago.

From the comparable 1988 week, coal loadings were up 9,784 cars (8.3 percent), and motor vehicles and equipment loadings rose 1,545 cars (7.7 percent). Grain loadings were down 2,423 cars (7.0 percent).

Cumulative carloadings for the first 11 weeks of 1989 totaled 3,616,918, 0.2 percent above the comparable period a year ago.

Intermodal traffic on Class I railroads -- which is not included in the carloadings -- totaled 115,584 trailers and/or containers for the week ended March 18, 2.4 percent above the comparable week of 1988.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 11 weeks of 1989 was 1,222,183 trailers and/or containers, up 1.0 percent from 1988.

The AAR also estimated that ton-miles carried on major railroads in the week ended March 18 totaled 20.0 billion, 3.1 percent above the comparable week of 1988. Cumulative volume for the first 11 weeks of 1989 was an estimated 209.9 billion ton-miles, up 0.7 percent from the comparable period of last year.

**Because of changes in reporting, 1989 figures are not comparable to previous years, except for 1988, which has been restated for purposes of comparison with 1989.*

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 18, 1989

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP					
		COMPARISON WITH			
COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING MARCH 18, 1989	SAME WEEK OF 1988	CHANGE	PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	32,344	34,767	-7.0 %	31,045	4.2 %
Farm Products, Ex Grain	2,110	2,086	1.2	1,773	19.0
Metallic Ores	14,489	14,339	1.0	15,078	-3.9
Coal	128,148	118,364	8.3	119,525	7.2
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	13,357	13,469	-.8	10,139	31.7
Nonmetallic Minerals	9,350	9,356	-.1	8,695	7.5
Grain Mill Products	9,730	9,717	.1	10,240	-5.0
Food & Kindred Products	8,813	9,042	-2.5	8,574	2.8
Primary Forest Products	10,248	10,271	-.2	8,877	15.4
Lumber & Wood Products	6,808	8,011	-15.0	6,687	1.8
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	10,594	11,107	-4.6	9,944	6.5
Chemicals	28,413	27,425	3.6	27,763	2.3
Petroleum Products	5,128	4,818	6.4	5,157	-.6
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	10,462	10,568	-1.0	9,286	12.7
Coke	5,869	5,463	7.4	5,684	3.3
Metals & Products	9,746	10,553	-7.6	9,731	.2
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	21,721	20,176	7.7	21,026	3.3
Waste & Scrap Materials	9,365	10,177	-8.0	8,950	4.6
Forwarder & Shipper Assn.	18	20	-10.0	3	500.0
All Other Carloads	7,292	7,452	-2.1	7,071	3.1
Total	344,005	337,181	2.0 %	325,248	5.8 %

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES						
	WEEK ENDING MARCH 18, 1989			CUMULATIVE: 11 WEEKS ENDING MARCH 18, 1989		
TRAFFIC	1989	1988	CHANGE	1989	1988	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	344,005	337,181	2.0 %	3,616,918	3,609,125	.2 %
Intermodal Traffic						
Trailers	69,948	69,615	.5	728,981	752,188	-3.1
Containers	45,636	43,262	5.5	493,202	458,158	7.6
Total	115,584	112,877	2.4	1,222,183	1,210,346	1.0
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	20.0	19.4	3.1 %	209.9 r	208.4	.7 %

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